

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 T-03 OMB-01 PC-04 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

PM-09 L-03 H-02 RSR-01 NIC-01 /190 W
----- 099384

R 200916 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8797

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2223

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, NI, DM, TO, XY

SUBJECT: NIGERIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

REFS : COTONOU 361: LOME 515

1. PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE SEEN SPATE OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING FONMINS OF NIGERIA, DAHOMEY, AND TOGO, CULMINATING IN TRIPARTITE MEETING REPORTED LOME REFTEL. BOTH DAHOMEAN AND TOGOLESE FONMINS VISITED LAGOS IN FORTNIGHT PRIOR TO LOME SESSION, FORMER BEARING SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM KEREKOU TO GOWON (COTONOU REFTEL AND LATTER FOR TALKS WITH FMG COMMISSIONER EXTAFF ARIKPO. ALLADAYE (DAHOMEY) " EXCHANGED VIEWS ON MATTER OF MUTUAL INTEREST" WITH GOWON ON MARCH 9, WHILE HUNLEDE (TOGO) MET ARIKPO MARCH 14 " WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN TWO FRINDLY COUNTRIES." HUNLEDE ADMITTED TO PRESS THAT WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC
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COMMUNITY WAS ONE OF TOPICS DISCUSSED, BUT OTHERWISE
NO DETAILS ANNOUNCED ON EITHER VISIT.

2. DAHOMEANS HERE CONFIRM THAT ONE PURPOSE OF ALLADAYE
TRIP WAS TO UPDATE GOWON ON SITUATION IN DAHOMEY IN
WAKE RECENT INTERNAL UPHEAVALS (SIMILAR MISSION CAME
TO LAGOS IMMEDIATELY AFTER MILITARY COUP). THEY ADD
THAT ALLADAYE TOOK OCCASION HIS QUICK VISIT TO REVIEW
BILATERAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING PROBLEM OF
TOGOLESE GOODS TRANSITING DAHOMEY WHICH WAS PRINCIPAL
TOPIC AT MARCH 16 LOME MEETING. BOTH DAHOMEANS AND
TOGOLESE REPORT NO BASIC DECISIONS REACHED AT TRIPARTITE
SESSION, WHICH TURNED WHOLE DELICATE TRANSIT QUESTION
OVER TO GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO WILL BEGIN WORK IN LAGOS
IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION COTONOU REFTTEL
REPORT OF POSSIBLE MRGD PROPOSALS FOR DEFENSE AGREEMENT
OR BENIN ECONOMIC UNION. ATTITUDE OF DAHOMEAN EMBASSY
SOURCE SUGGESTED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR MORE FORMAL TIES
TO OUTSIZED NIGERIAN NEIGHBOR, AND IN FACT REFLECTED
CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE AT NIGERIAN- TOGOLESE DISCUSSIONS
OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY FROM WHICH DAHOMEY
HAD BEEN EXCLUDED. AGREE NIGERIA WOULD FAVOR SOME
FORM OF BENIN ECONOMIC UNION NOT INVOLVING HIGH COSTS
FOR FMG, BUT WE SEE NO SIGN AS YET THAT THIS IS
IMMINENT.
REINHARDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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